

PLO: Israeli plan a farce

NICOSIA (AP) — The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said Monday that the peace plan approved a day earlier by the Israeli cabinet was a "farce" that ignored their right to a independent homeland. The committee said the plan was also flawed because it did not include Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and ignored the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. "The committee sees that this proposal does not concern Palestinian people, because it fails to recognise their existence as a nation," said a statement issued by the 15-member committee after a meeting at their headquarters in Tunis. The statement said the plan did not take into account all the international resolutions, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

U.S. envoy leaves Panama

PANAMA CITY (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis left in protest for home Monday in the aftermath of presidential elections which observers called fraudulent and the Panamanian government annulled. Meanwhile, hospital officials said Monday the condition of Guillermo Endara, the leading opposition candidate beaten in the tumultuous aftermath of the May 7 voting, had improved, and he might be released Tuesday. Also Monday, schools reopened for children of American military personnel in the Panama Canal zone. But work was suspended for local teachers preparing for the opening of the Panamanian school year. U.S. President George Bush announced last week that Davis would be withdrawn indefinitely to document Washington's anger at the beatings of some political candidates by thugs associated with the government. Davis said before departing that Manuel Noriega — Panama's de-facto ruler who faces U.S. drug charges — ordered last week's attack on opposition candidates in an attempt to assassinate one of them.

Volume 14 Number 4085

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1989, SHAWWAL 11, 1409

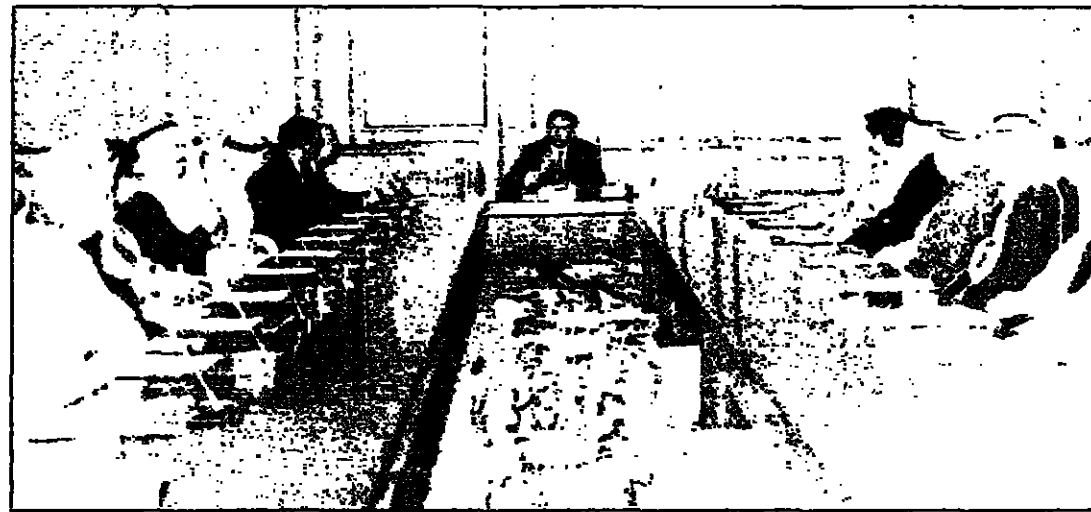
Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Sharif Zaid receives demands from Maan, pledges efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the citizens of Maan led by Mayor Mousa Khalaf Fayyad Monday presented to the government a set of demands for improved health, education and social services. The demands, as presented to Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker at a meeting, also call on the government to help find employment for Maan citizens in economic projects set up around the city.

Fayyad, in a speech before the prime minister, pledged the total support of the people of Maan for His Majesty King Hussein and renewed the city's allegiance to the Hashemite throne. "Maan will remain true to its commitment and faithful to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, which considered Maan as its main base in Jordan and a city which welcomed the vanguards of the revolt led by the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," he said.

Sharif Zaid told the delegation that the government would do all it can and with all its power to implement the King's directives as contained in the letter of designation to the government and would maintain open channels of dialogue with the public to ensure continued progress and development in the Kingdom. The present circumstances in the Kingdom require from all citizens to cooperate so that the hardships can be overcome, the prime minister said.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Monday meets with a delegation representing Maan (Petra photo).

Premier reaffirms Jordan's stand in talks with Ross

By Rania Atalla with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Monday met with a visiting U.S. State Department delegation, headed by Director of Policy Planning Dennis Ross, and was briefed on the results of talks last week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, focusing on the Middle East situation which figured high on the agenda on regional conflicts in the Moscow meeting.

Attending the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzidine in addition to the U.S. ambassador to Amman. Qasem had also met with the delegation Monday and exchanged views on the latest developments in the region. Qasem reiterated the importance of intensifying efforts, in the context of a peace process, for convening an international peace conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO.

Ross, who arrived from Egypt, said in Cairo the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories needed to be developed further. "I think it has elements that can be built up. We need to know more about it," Ross said in reference to the plan originally put forth by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and approved by the Israeli cabinet Sunday (see page 4).

Prime Minister, Saudi air chief discuss cooperation, relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Monday received Saudi Air Defence Commander Prince Khaled Ibn Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein. Discussions during the meeting covered means to develop cooperation and relations between the two countries in various fields in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz. The prime minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the guest. Present were Prince Faisal, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, the chief of the General Intelligence Department, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, senior military officials, and members of the delegation accompanying Prince Khaled.

Earlier, Abu Taleb received in his office the Saudi guest and the accompanying delegation and reviewed the current situation in the region as well as spheres of cooperation.

Journalists' problems ordered resolved

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker has issued directives to the Ministry of Information to settle all problems related to journalists who had stopped writing, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. Reporting on a meeting between the prime minister and a number of journalists, Petra said the move was taken with a view to "enable the journalists to practise their journalistic activities and effectively participate in serving their country and society through their work."

Sultan Qaboos arrives today

By Rania Atalla with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman arrives in Amman Tuesday on a state visit and for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Arab and regional issues as well as bilateral relations and for consultations ahead of the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Casablanca May 23-24.

Sultan Qaboos' talks with King Hussein are expected to focus on the latest developments at the Arab and international scenes, the situation in Lebanon and efforts for peace in the Middle East. Qaboos' visit to Jordan comes as part of a scheduled tour of Arab and European countries which started with Kuwait and is expected to take him to Egypt, France, Spain and Britain. The trip is Qaboos' first outside the Arab World since his visit to the U.S. in 1983.

Official sources in Oman were quoted by the AP as saying Sultan Qaboos will discuss the Gulf situation and Arab and international issues during his tour. The Omani leader's visit to Jordan comes amid intensified inter-Arab contacts ahead of the Casablanca summit, which is expected to discuss the new Palestinian peace strategy and the Lebanese civil strife as well as Egypt's reentry into the Arab League. The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Khalifa, held talks on the summit with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday and is expected in Cairo for discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mubarak meanwhile thanked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for supporting Egypt's attendance at the Casablanca summit. In a statement carried by Cairo's Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mubarak said: "There are no differences between (Syria and Egypt)." A Syrian presidential spokesman Saturday described Egypt's attendance at the summit as a "natural and positive development." "Syria realises the positive elements in President Mubarak's policy and know well that the future interests of Syria and Egypt are the same," the spokesman said. Mubarak said Monday: "We thank President Hafez Al Assad for this good statement and I cannot add anything to it."

Army destroys 13 Palestinian homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army destroyed or sealed 13 homes in the occupied West Bank Monday in a crackdown on suspected Palestinian activities involved in the 17-month-old uprising. The demolitions were carried out as Palestinians staged a general strike to mark the 41st anniversary of the founding of the Zionist state, what underground uprising leaders called "the disaster when Israel was created."

In the West Bank, the army blew up six houses in the city of Nablus, the refugees camps of Balata and Arrub, and the village of Deir Nidham. Troops sealed seven houses, four in Nablus and three in the town of Hebron. House owners in Nablus were accused of killing two alleged collaborators, the army said. Suspects in Arrub allegedly fired at an army unit in February 1988, but the bullets struck a local woman who died of her wounds. The Deir Nidham man allegedly stabbed and injured a border policeman in February.

Western nations, including the United States, have condemned house demolitions and sealings as a violation of the right to due process because it usually comes before suspects have been tried. Since the December 1987 start of the uprising, more than 170 houses have been demolished and more than 70 others sealed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to army figures. In the occupied lands, Palestinians observed a general strike to protest the displacement of more than 600,000 Palestinians after the founding of Israel on May 15, 1948.

Hopes for Lebanon hang on Arab summit

KUWAIT (R) — Deployment of Arab League ceasefire observers in Lebanon appeared little closer Monday and diplomats said hopes of lasting peace rested on next week's Arab summit. "The last ditch, last chance is the summit," one said. "If they (Lebanon's warring parties) can't come to some meeting of minds it is hard to see what can be done after that."

Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Brahimi, arrived in Kuwait Sunday night to brief Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah after a week of shuttle diplomacy between Beirut and Damascus. A Foreign Ministry official told reporters the negotiators, due to return to Beirut within hours, had won agreement from all parties on a ceasefire and had received promises of cooperation. Brahimi said on arrival in Kuwait that all Lebanese parties had made it clear they accepted the ceasefire and there were no problems concerning when and where the observer force would deploy.

But diplomats said the observer force of about 300 men could not move in at present. "At the moment they are deadlocked," said one Western diplomat. "The observers cannot be deployed because the ceasefire is not effective." A truce negotiated by Brahimi has generally held since Thursday, easing eight weeks of artillery battles between troops loyal to military commander Michel Aoun, Syrian troops and Lebanese militia allies. But gunners have continued firing on Aoun-controlled ports. Sheikh Sabah, head of

an Arab League ministerial committee trying to mediate a lasting solution in Lebanon, has said the force will not deploy until all firing stops. Rival forces say the observers should patrol the coast to stop Aoun bringing in arms. Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in an interview published Monday said his country could not be defeated in Lebanon. "No one can inflict defeat on Syria in Lebanon," he told the London-based Arabic language newspaper Al Sharq Awsat. "Relations between the Syrians and Lebanon are stronger than those between the

inhabitants of the (U.S.) states of California and New York." Khaddam said. "It was the Lebanese government which had invited Syria to come to Lebanon in 1976," Khaddam added. Khaddam said Syria's presence in the neighbouring country was prompted by the need to "preserve the security of both Syria and Lebanon." "Even the (unwritten 1943) Lebanese national charter bans the use of Lebanese territory to attack Syria. Syrian and Israeli forces fought each other during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the Israelis were 25 kilometres from Damascus."

SWAPO confined to camps

LUANDA (R) — A senior U.N. official confirmed Monday that Namibian nationalist fighters have pulled back into Angola and been confined to camps there. Major John Ryan of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia (UNTAG) told Reuters in Luanda that 5,166 fighters of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) paraded at the weekend at Chibemba in southern Angola, where they were counted by U.N. officials. Earlier SWAPO Information Secretary Hideo Hamutenya said: "Our fighters are all out." He said South Africa now had no reason for not demobilising its heavy military presence in Namibia, under a withdrawal pact agreed last month. Ryan spoke as officials from

South Africa, Angola and Cuba and Soviet and U.S. observers were meeting on the frontier to decide if all SWAPO fighters had quit Namibia. If they agree, Pretoria is expected to resume its own withdrawal under a U.N. independence plan which was thrown off course on the day it was due to start, April 1. A SWAPO incursion led to fighting with South African-led forces and more than 300 guerrillas died. Hamutenya said of Pretoria's troops: "We want them to go back to their bases and then leave. Whether they will or not is something else. They can always find excuses."

South African troops were confined to base Saturday after a two-week bush sweep to verify that SWAPO had pulled back. Hamutenya said the guerrillas were confined to bases along the 16th Parallel in Angola, 150 kilometres north of the Namibian border, as agreed last month. Chibemba, where the SWAPO parade took place, is 30 kilometres north of the 16th Parallel. The parade was inspected by Colonel Michael Moriarty who heads the UNTAG team in Angola. SWAPO President Sam Nujoma and Angolan and SWAPO military commanders were there. "We confirm SWAPO fighters now effectively confined to camps north of 16th Parallel," Moriarty said in a telex message to the U.N. special representative in Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari.

Massive student rally for democracy mars Peking summit

Gorbachev declares end to Sino-Soviet split

PEKING (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, on the first day of a historic visit disrupted by student demonstrations, declared Monday an end to the Sino-Soviet split and said the Kremlin had been partly at fault for the three decades of a bad feeling. "Very probably we are also responsible for that period to a certain extent," Gorbachev told China's President Yang Shangkun. The Soviet leader, in remarks broadcast on Chinese Television, expressed "sorrow and regret" for the bad blood of the past, and said, "this period has come to an end."

Yang, in turn, described relations between the two communist nations as having come to "a new starting point." Gorbachev, 58, arrived earlier Monday for the first Sino-Soviet summit since Nikita Khrushchev met Mao Tse-tung in 1959 in acrimonious talks that contributed to rapidly deteriorating relations. The two nations nearly went to war after border fighting broke out in 1969. They have since been at odds over Afghanistan, Cambodia and what China has called Soviet "hegemonism."

Both sides agree that Gorbachev's meeting Tuesday with 84-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping will normalise government and Communist Party ties and help spur economic, cultural and academic contacts. But the summit got off to a rocky start as up to 150,000 people, about half of them students, occupied Tiananmen Square in a massive protest for a more open and democratic society. The protesters tried to march up the steps of Peking's Great Hall of the People while Gorbachev banqueted with Chinese leaders inside. Reuter reporters on the scene saw police reinforcements running to the east side of the vast hall to prevent the students from forcing their way in. Police pushed back the students — who had demonstrated overnight in defiance of the authorities in nearby Tiananmen Square — but reporters did not see any serious clashes. Tens of thousands of people thronged the square, including 2,000 students on the third day of a hunger strike. Student leaders appealed for calm with loudspeakers. "We want Gorbachev," workers at the southern end of the hall chanted in English. Several thousand police and troops, some sitting calmly on the paving stones, kept them back. Gorbachev praised Peking's reforms in his banquet speech. "The Soviet people applaud and understand the enthusiasm that impells your country in its desire for modernisation in all spheres of social life," Gorbachev said. China's reforms were "bold and far-reaching," Gorbachev said in the highest words of praise spoken by a Soviet leader for China. "We wish the leaders and the people of China every success in resolving the problems they face in this path," he said. "Both our countries have been set in motion," he said. The mass demonstration outside was the climax of the four-week-old student democracy movement which has begun to embrace workers and older intellectuals. "This is so embarrassing for the Chinese leadership," commented one foreign diplomat. Another described the scenes as "humiliating."



Pro-democracy Chinese students put up a poster in Peking's central square demanding Soviet-style "glasnost" in China on the eve of the Sino-Soviet summit in the Chinese capital.

Yang spoke of a "new starting point" in ties with the Soviet Union but, in veiled words of warning, mentioned China's consistent opposition to "hegemonism," a code-word used in the past by China to describe attempted superpower domination. Yang recalled he studied for three years in the Soviet Union and extended China's warm welcome to the Soviet leader.

Earlier traffic was paralysed along the capital's thoroughfare as leading Chinese intellectuals marched towards the square, drawing crowds numbering thousands. Hundreds of Peking citizens staged their own protest nearby, rallying under a banner proclaiming "the Chinese people are entirely with the students."

PLO describes Israeli proposal as ridiculous

TUNIS (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Monday described the Israeli government's election proposals as ridiculous and said they appeared to fall far short of elections envisaged by the PLO.

Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department in Tunis, told Reuters: "It's quite clear that the PLO can't take the proposal seriously in any way... it's a ridiculous proposal."

The Israeli plan, endorsed at a cabinet meeting Sunday, offers the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip the chance to elect representatives to negotiate with Israel.

The representatives would also serve as a self-governing authority during a five-year interim period while they negotiated a permanent solution.

But the plan, essentially a revival of the 1978 Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, rules the PLO out of talks and does not guarantee Israeli withdrawal at any stage.

Hilal repeated the PLO position that it could only endorse elections if they formed part of a comprehensive scheme leading to the independence of the occupied territories.

"There should also be Israeli withdrawal and international supervision of the elections... we are more convinced than ever that this position is correct," he added.

The PLO spokesman, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, said he could not comment on the Israeli proposals until the Palestinian leadership had seen the details and discussed them.

In Baghdad, Iraq, the Palestinian ambassador, Azzam Al Ahmad, said the plan put forward by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is still vague on the "final goal" of any elections in the occupied territories. The goal should be an independent Palesti-

nian state, he said. "We will reject any attempt to go back to the autonomy rule plan suggested by the Camp David accords," he said.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said the group does not care about a cabinet vote "of who is against the Shamir plan and who is against it."

The DFLP, the second-largest group in the PLO, issued a statement saying the plan was a "false enterprise" aimed at undermining the Palestinian uprising and plans for an international conference on Middle East peace.

Elections before an Israeli withdrawal and without international supervision would be rejected, the statement said.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) also issued a similar statement in Damascus, calling for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories before elections could be contemplated.

The DFLP also called Monday for the stepping up of the uprising and urged Arab states to back the revolt effectively.

The DFLP was commenting on the 41st anniversary of the termination of British mandate on Palestine and the founding of the state of Israel.

In a statement received in Nicosia, the DFLP said the uprising "has crowned a new phase of Palestinian national struggle aimed at achieving full independence."

It said "the achievements made so far should be developed to spur Western Europe to recognise officially the state of Palestine and exert pressure on the United States to agree to convening an international conference (to solve the Palestinian problem)."

"The Arab countries for their part should effectively back the

uprising... while our people in occupied territories are called upon to step up the struggle and direct more painful blows to the occupation authorities."

Israeli moves

Meanwhile, Israeli officials prepared to solicit Arabs Monday to join in negotiations under the election plan, despite its initial rejection by leading Palestinians.

"It's first time the Likud and Labour have been able to unite behind one plan," Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said.

The unanimity of the normally fractious government seemed to result mainly from the fact the plan sidestepped controversial elements such as Palestinian demands for international supervision and the participation of 140,000 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem.

Pazner said the key question now was whether an Arab partner could be found for negotiations. He said that would be the focus of U.S. State Department envoy Dennis Ross' forthcoming trip to Egypt and Jordan.

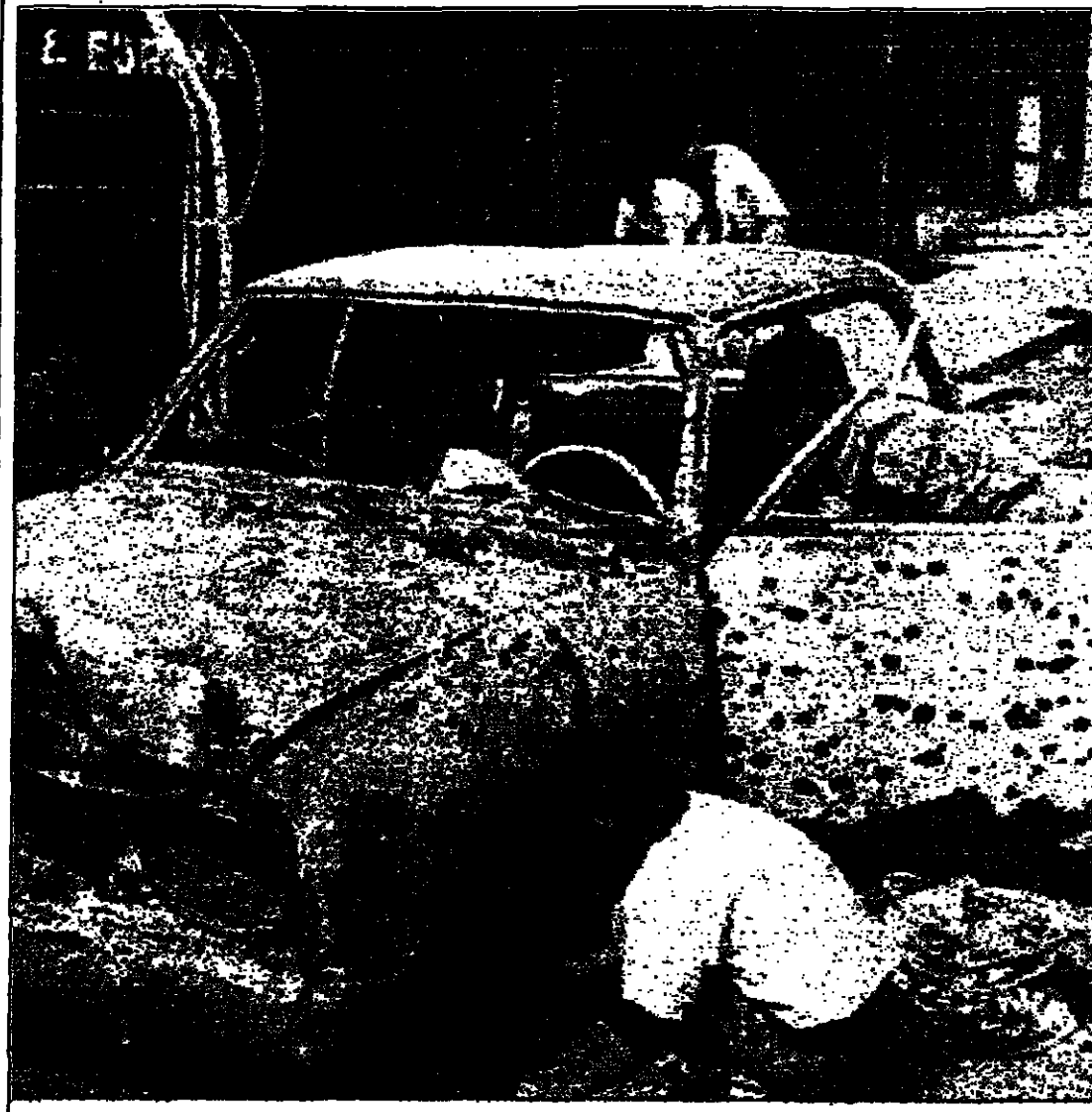
Pazner said Ross would report back to Shamir on Palestinian and Arab reaction Tuesday.

Shamir picked up qualified support from Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who predicted elections would be held within a year.

Freij said on Israel's Arabic TV that Shamir's plan is a "worthy idea if it is fairly conducted under international supervision with the consent of the PLO and the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem."

Under the plan, the occupied territories would be divided into 10 voting districts, each represented by one person in the elected body, Israel Radio reported.

The plan specifically rules out negotiations with the PLO and says Israel will oppose creation of a Palestinian state.



TREASURE TROVE: Children doing the rounds of Beirut's streets, scavenging whatever they can find to sell, come across a car abandoned during the previous night in shelling.

Iran haj boycott looks certain as Saudi ties sour

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian boycott of the annual pilgrimage to holy places looks certain after Tehran unleashed a fresh blast of invective against Saudi Arabia ending a propaganda truce.

On the second day of a new anti-Saudi campaign, the Tehran newspaper Jomhuri Eslami accused the ruling house of Saud of scotching at the last moment an agreement on Iranian participation in this year's pilgrimage clinched through Muslim countries like Pakistan.

On Sunday Tehran accused Riyadh of being "un-Islamic." Gulf-based Iranian sources said indirect talks on averting a boycott had broken down over Iran's demand to send 150,000 pilgrims, more than three times as many as Saudi Arabia will accept.

A Saudi Arabian official said Iran's intentions would become clear by Tuesday, when it will be known if it will attend a conference on the Haj in Saudi Arabia the next day.

If it does not attend then a boycott of the Haj itself next July for the second year in a row will be on the cards, he said.

Diplomats in the region said, however, that a boycott already looked certain.

Iran's official Haj and Endowment Organisation said Sunday that imposing a quota on the number of pilgrims and a Saudi Arabia ban on political demonstrations were "un-Islamic."

The criticisms end a truce in a war of words between Iran and Saudi Arabia that began in October when the two countries sought to improve ties following last August's Gulf war ceasefire.

Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran in April last year, accusing it of terrorism and subversive acts as the two countries clashed over the Haj. Ties have not been restored.

More than 400 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were killed after Saudi security forces intervened to stop political demonstration in Mecca in July 1987.

Iran stayed away from the pilgrimage in 1988 after Saudi Arabia refused to accept more than 45,000 Iranians or agree to political activities during the Haj.

The quota system for pilgrims was agreed by a meeting on the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) last year to ease pressure on holy sites during renovation work.

The Saudi official said one will know until midnight Tuesday whether Iran will attend Wednesday's conference of pilgrimage ministers from 45 Islamic countries.

Riyadh has warned that strict Islamic law will be enforced against anyone who riots at this year's Haj.

Saudi Arabia "refuses to endanger the lives of pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca by demonstrations and violence... and it will use Islamic law for punishment," a Saudi official said in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Moroccan hero receives honours at funeral

CASABLANCA (R) — Morocco Sunday gave a state funeral to the pilot who saved King Hassan's life by flying his royal jet to safety after an attack by rebel air force pilots. Brigadier General Mohammed Kabbaj was promoted to head the air force after the incident in June 1972 during a failed coup attempt. Kabbaj, who became a national hero for keeping the king's plane aloft despite damage from the rebel jets, died last week of cancer. In a rare mark of respect, King Hassan went to Kabbaj's hospital bed side to pay his respects after hearing of the death Friday. Although the king did not attend the funeral, Moroccan Prime Minister Azzeddine Laraki and numerous other top personalities from the armed forces and politics in the kingdom were present.

King Fahd to visit Aden

MANAMA (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has accepted an official invitation to visit South Yemen, according to Aden's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The ambassador to Riyadh, Ghalib Ali Gameel, told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Sayassah that the date for the visit has yet to be fixed. The visit would be the first-ever by a monarch of the kingdom to Aden since it gained independence from Britain in November 1967 and subsequently became the Arab World's only self-proclaimed Marxist country. The ambassador said no Saudi monarch had been there since the 1950s. South Yemen has close economic and military ties with the Soviet Union. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab countries on the Arabian peninsula have been developing relations with Aden, prodding it towards merger with North Yemen and mediating an end to border frictions with Oman.

Libya urges Turkey to back demand

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has asked Turkey to back its demand that Italy pay compensation for "genocide" during its colonial rule. Qadhafi told Turkish businessmen West German compensation paid to Jews because of crimes during World War II set a precedent in international law for Libya's claim against Italy. The Libyan news agency JANA quoted Qadhafi as saying Sunday. "We would like to see Turkey taking the initiative for something similar (to be paid by Italy to Libya)... to safeguard the future of relations between the Turkish and Arab nations," JANA, received in Nicosia, quoted Qadhafi as saying. Italian colonialism was "not a political colonialism but an act of genocide and total destruction (with) a special character different to the other examples of colonialism," Qadhafi said. "Italy might be deprived of all economic benefits through its companies working in (Libya) if it does not compensate (Libyans) for the acts of murder, destitution and expulsion committed during the era of Italian colonialism," JANA, received in Nicosia, quoted him as saying. "We consider the giving of Libya to Italy in 1912 (by its former Turkish Ottoman rulers) a tragic action which hurt us deeply and this requires us to debate our relationship with Turkey in a particular manner," he said.

Syrian president to visit Iran

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad is to visit Iran on his first trip there since the 1979 revolution, the official Syrian News Agency SANA reported Monday. It gave no date for the visit.

Saudi Arabia gives PLO \$6 million

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has given the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a third grant of just over \$6 million to help finance the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, PLO officials said Monday. Riyadh paid the PLO a total of \$850.5 million under a 10-year pledge made in 1979 by Arab states to support the PLO and Arab states on the frontline of the conflict with Israel. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia earlier this year ordered new monthly payments of \$6.02 million for the PLO.

SLA said to kill three in Lebanon

MIMAS, Lebanon (R) — Gunners of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed three Druze militiamen and wounded seven Monday when they shelled their jeep, security sources said. They said the jeep was hit in the village of Mimas on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone." One source said the fighters were on their way to the Souk Al Gharb area southeast of Beirut where their militia has been involved in heavy fighting against troops in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Egypt to continue U.S. tank project

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will go ahead with a \$2 billion plan to co-produce the U.S. main battle tank, a minister said Sunday.

"Egypt's programme for producing the U.S. M-1A1 tank will continue as planned," Minister of State for Military Production Gamal Ibrahim Al Sayed told reporters during a visit to a military plant outside Cairo.

In interviews over the past week, military sources told Reuters Egypt might scrap the plan as part of a sweeping review of projects by the new defence minister, Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb.

Sayed gave no further details. Defence Ministry sources said the

issue would be raised Wednesday at an annual meeting in Cairo of the joint U.S.-Egyptian Military Cooperation Committee. The U.S. team will be led by Defence Under-Secretary Richard Armitage.

The first 15 of 555 M-1A1s are due to arrive in Egypt in 1991, but military sources said Egypt was short of more than \$200 million for arms purchases that year.

They said the production line set up to assemble the tanks was at least six months behind schedule.

Egypt owes its mainly Western creditors a total of \$43 billion. Washington has been pressing for

repayment of \$4.5 billion in military debt.

Although the direct cost of the M-1A1 will be covered by U.S. military grants of \$1.5 billion a year, the sources said Egypt was having difficulty financing the tank factory.

Military sources also said Abu Taleb had been ordered to root out corruption in the armed services.

One Western source said Abu Taleb had instructions to probe any foreign exchange irregularities on the part of military personnel, close unauthorised accounts and end the armed forces' involvement in farming, manufacturing and construction.

Iranian leaders pursue crackdown amid political turmoil

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Iranian authorities have executed hundreds of people since August amid the political turmoil that has followed the Iran-Iraq war, and sources outside the country say a new wave of arrests is under way.

Iranian authorities have announced that "scores of counter-revolutionaries" and more than 500 drug offenders have been put to death since August. But human rights groups opposition sources outside Iran assert that the real number of executions could range from 1,000 to more than 12,000, and that many of the purported drug offenders executed may in fact be political opponents of the government.

The executions are the most numerous in Iran since 1980-81, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's loyalists turned on

leftist and secular militants who helped them topple Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in the 1979 revolution.

There is speculation that the executions will continue, against a growing official outcry against "liberals" inside the country and signs of a power struggle within the Tehran hierarchy.

The liberals are in conflict with the revolution. "Tehran's radical Jomhuri Islami daily declared last week. 'Why have they been left... to infiltrate every place they want to carry out wicked acts? ... The snakes are in their holes and waiting to release their poison.'"

In the Tehran political manoeuvring, hard-liners led by Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi appear now to hold the upper hand. Several leading figures associated with more moderate policies have already become casualties of the fun-

damentalist resurgence decreed by Khomeini in February.

Most prominent among them has been Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, who lost his status as the chosen successor to Khomeini as Iran's spiritual leader. Montazeri had called for a halt to executions and wider freedoms, and openly criticised the shortcomings of the 1979 revolution.

Some of the "counter-revolutionaries" that Tehran has acknowledged were executed were Montazeri's supporters.

Many were middle-ranking clerics, including Hojatoleslam Omid Najafabadi, a former revolutionary judge. They were described by Intelligence Minister Mohammad Rev-Shahri as "pseudo-clergymen... involved in various political, moral and corrupt offences."

The most powerful opposition movement to Khomeini outside Iran, the Iraqi-based Mujah-

deen-e-Khalq, say that more than 12,000 political prisoners have been slain by the state in the last six months. It has listed by name 1,600 of the alleged victims, and says hundreds more people are being arrested now.

Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department have estimated that some 1,000 political prisoners have been executed, although some experts believe the true figure is probably far higher.

Iranian officials deny the dissidents' claim of 12,000 political executions. But the official media have acknowledged that scores of "counter-revolutionaries" have been publicly executed since August.

The media have also reported that nearly 550 alleged drug smugglers were hanged from mobile cranes and expressway overpasses in a score of cities under a draconian new anti-

narcotics law that makes the death sentence mandatory for possession of even small amounts of drugs.

Iran is known to be waging a nationwide crackdown to stamp out rampant drug smuggling and abuse. But the drug crackdown began late last year, when the execution of political prisoners raised an international outcry over alleged human rights abuses, and the Mujahedeen claim that many of those executed without trial were drug smugglers.

The rebels said 200 dissidents were executed in the western city of Hamedan in recent weeks with the official explanation that they were drug smugglers. There was no way to confirm that claim independently.

Montazeri, before his forced resignation, wrote to Khomeini protesting "the execution of

thousands of people" and "this genocide of prisoners, without trial."

He said the executions were personally ordered by Khomeini, who decreed that imprisoned supporters of the Mujahedeen and other opposition groups who did not "truly repent" should be killed.

"Blown up" or "gassed" There have been persistent reports of mass executions in Iranian prisons. Some dissident accounts claim that hundreds of prisoners, some of them held without trial for years, have been blown up or gassed to death.

Khomeini's supporters say that Montazeri was politically naive and allowed himself to become the mouthpiece for opponents of the regime.

Khomeini warned him in a letter accepting his resignation: "clean up your house of dishonest people and... keep away oppo-

sition party despite constant harassment, and was becoming increasingly close to Montazeri.

Iran's military has not escaped the purge. Amid reports of executions among senior officers in the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the belief is growing that the radicals are eliminating their opponents in the military.

Iranian officials claimed last month that several networks of U.S. spies had been smashed, allegedly including senior figures in the navy and army, long distrusted because of links with ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and even the foreign ministry, whose officials have been branded as too pro-Western.

While there may indeed have been some U.S. agents operating in Iran, exiles and other sources suspect that purge was designed to deflect attention from Iran's economic and political problems.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:30 Educational programme
17:30 Religious programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:00 Programme on world news
19:30 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Arabic film
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 A French documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Strangeness
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hit Squad
21:30 Forever Green
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

06:44 Fajr
05:31 Sunrise
12:35 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:30 Maghreb

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 627369
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 71331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 71261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813817, 821289

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will continue warm and dry winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba,

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wa'el Khartabil 665917
Dr. Aswad Aqabawi 642896
Dr. Saleh Zayed 776751
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nashid pharmacy 625972
Al Salam pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneissat pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 896777
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787114
Complaints 787114
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6617114
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajirah 7711012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 891611/15
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690102
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 661102
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53700-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Baghdad (RJ)
09:15 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
11:15 Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
16:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
18:10 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 Athens (RJ)
18:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:20 Kuwait (KU)
12:25 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
15:00 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
19:00 Dubai (EK)
19:55 Damascus (AZ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:20 Kuwait (KU)
12:25 Baghdad (IA)
13:30 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
18:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:05 Rome (AZ)
20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
20:10 London, Cairo (BA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:20 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Baghdad (IA)
15:00 Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
19:00 Dubai (EK)
19:55 Damascus (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apples 300 / 400
Bananas 350 / 300
Bananas (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 280 / 240
Broad beans 150 / 100
Cabbage 70 / 50
Carrots 150 / 100
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumbers 130 / 100
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 100 / 70
Garlic 220 / 180
Lemon 470 / 400
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 80
Marrows (large) 270 / 200
Marrows (small) 280 / 200
Orange 380 / 300
Onion (dry) 70 / 50
Onion (green) 100 / 60
Peas 200 / 170
Pepper (hot) 160 / 120
Pepper (sweet) 180 / 130
Potato 240 / 200
Tomatoes 220 / 180



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday evening opens Jordan's aerial photography exhibition at Gallery Alia (Petra photo)

Queen Noor opens Jordan's aerial photography exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday evening opened photo exhibition by British writer and photographer Jane Taylor at Gallery Alia in Amman.

The photographs depict aerial views of different parts of Jordan focusing mainly on Jerash archaeological sites, the desert castles, Shobak citadel, the Nabatean city of Petra, and Wadi Rum

in addition to a range of mountains overlooking Wadi Araba and other historical regions in Jordan.

The photographer had flown on board aircraft provided by the Royal Jordanian Air Force to shoot her views from the air. On display for 10 days are 41 photographs taken by Taylor who is also displaying a book entitled "High Above Jordan" and

whose proceeds will finance the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital of Jerusalem which is being supported by Jordan.

Attending the opening ceremony with the Queen Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Princess Alia Al Faisal, Prince Raad Ibn Zaid, the chief chamberlain, Princess Majida, officials and members of the foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan.

Young businessmen assess Jordan's economic potential

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Young Executives of Business Companies Organisation met here Monday with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin to discuss general topics related to the Jordanian economy and investment.

Izzeddin briefed the visitors on the country's investment prospects and incentives for encouraging investors. He said that investment in public and private

sectors is continuously being encouraged by the government which also strives to promote trade exchange with various countries.

The head of the delegation, whose organisation groups 6,000 members representing companies in 70 countries, said that their visit to Jordan is in the course of a fact-finding mission to learn about the country's economic and investment potentials and to pave

the way for opening a branch for the organisation in Amman.

He said that the private sector in Jordan has recently joined the organisation and six heads of local companies are now considered organisation members.

The delegation leader said he will meet with several officials and Jordanian businessmen and will make visits to various economic sites to explore areas where organisation members can launch joint ventures.

Mu'ta holds smoking seminar

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — Mu'ta University Monday organised a seminar on combating smoking in the course of a general campaign in the Karak Governorate against the habit.

University President Ali Mahafza addressed the seminar voicing support for various anti-smoking campaigns in the country as launched by the Jordan National Anti-Smoking Society, and the government's recent measures to eliminate the smoking habit.

The society vice president addressed the session outlining various programmes being implemented by the society in cooperation with the Health Ministry to reduce smoking as a measure to safeguard public health.

He said that by the beginning of June a general meeting will be held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman to discuss smoking hazards.

The Mu'ta seminar reviewed six working papers on the adverse effects of smoking on socio-economic development and the danger

of smoking to pregnant mothers, and its direct cause of various diseases. The participants in the seminar, who represented the university staff, community colleges and various local organisations, also watched slides and a documentary film focusing on the dangers of smoking on public health.

Similar seminars were held earlier this year at Yarmouk University in Irbid and also in Amman. The Health Ministry in March banned on smoking in public places in implementation of a 1977 law on public health, and said that violators of the law will be liable to strict punishment stated under that law.

Fact-finding mission arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations fact finding mission has arrived in Amman on a four-day visit to Jordan to gather information about the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Mahmoud Al Sa'id the mission's head said that the group will meet with Jordanian officials and the Speaker of the Palestine National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh as well as representatives of the Palestine refugee camps in Jordan with the purpose of gathering information on the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

The group will also learn about

the Israeli authorities' practices against the Palestinian people and against the Palestinian economic, social and educational institutions in the occupied lands. Sa'id said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Sa'id and his group is here in the course of a tour in the Middle East to carry out a mission assigned to them by the United Nations press office.

Information gathered in this respect will be of immense benefit for the world public opinion which wants to know the real facts about the Middle East and the Israeli occupied Arab territory. Sa'id said.

He said that the United Nations is in the practice of dispatching missions to the region on a periodic basis to prepare detailed reports on the situation based on reliable information following close study of the region.

He said that the journalists picked out for the mission will also publish their findings in their own newspapers and magazines.

Upon their arrival here the mission's members were met by officials from the Ministry of Information and the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The announcement was made by the Department of Antiquities whose teams have been conducting the digs in cooperation with the British Institute for Archaeology and History over the past 40 days, according to a department spokesman.

The spokesman said that the digs are within a department programme designed to unearth various artefacts in the Karak region.

Khayyat leaves for Mecca

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the fourth conference by ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Islamic countries which will open in Mecca Wednesday.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who will represent Jordan at the meetings said that the three-day conference will discuss means of helping the Islamic world combat subversive ideologies and will review coordination of efforts by various ministries of Islamic

affairs in this respect.

Khayyat, who made the statement before his departure for Mecca, said that his delegation will present a memorandum with proposals on means of developing mosque preaching, contacting Muslim youths in non-Islamic countries, distribution of Islamic publications and means of combating extremist trends in Islam.

The minister is accompanied by several senior officials from his ministry.

Ghandour: RJ revenues exceed expectations

AMMAN (Petra) — Ali Ghandour, chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian (RJ), said Monday that RJ revenues in hard currency exceeded expectations and increased surpassed last year's by 50 per cent for a savings of about JD 200 million in hard currency.

In a press conference, Ghandour said that RJ capital was JD 10 million with a paid capital of JD 20 million. RJ has a modern fleet and its flights cover 44 world capitals with over 300 Jordanian pilots and some foreigners.

Ghandour informed journalists. "In addition, RJ has 5,121 employees, most of whom are Jordanians, earning JD 32 million in annual salaries," he said.

Noting that none of the carrier's planes are more than eight

years old, Ghandour said: "We got used, through our Jordanian experience and our own determination, to convert whatever is negative to positive."

RJ's expectations for operating revenues for 1989, Ghandour added, are expected to be \$287.2 million while operating expenditures are expected at \$241.2 — thus making an operating surplus of \$46 million.

Ghandour pointed out that RJ's revenues from maintaining foreign planes are about \$4 million. In addition to this, he said, RJ has investments in hotels as well as shares. Referring to the proposal about converting RJ into a shareholding company, he said: "The idea is still there, and we have made big steps in preparation for this conversion."

Arab anti-narcotic chiefs meet

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day meeting for heads of the Arab narcotic departments in the Arab World will be held in Amman Tuesday, with representatives from 15 Arab countries attending.

Director of the Arab Bureau for Narcotic Affairs at the Council of Arab Interior Ministers' general secretariat, Hashim Kassi said participants will discuss the best means for enhancing cooperation in the field of drug com-

bating.

Taking part in the meeting, which will be held under the patronage of Public Security Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, are delegates from 15 Arab countries, in addition to a representative of the Riyadh-based Arab Centre for Security Studies and Training and the Secretary General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers Akram Nashat Ibrahim.

Training for poultry managers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-week training seminar on poultry management opened at the Amman-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre (PTDC) which was established in 1986 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Participants representing 13 countries from the Near East region are taking part in the seminar to discuss raising poultry, hatching, poultry feed, cost of production, marketing, proper means of combating diseases that affect poultry and other related subjects.

The centre which was set up

with Italian government assistance aims to provide services to the countries of the Near East and to train personnel on means of developing poultry farming.

The centre offers courses and conducts regional seminars every year for participants from Arab and non Arab countries of the region. According to officials, the courses include mid-level poultry farm operations, designed to improve the management techniques of poultry farm foremen and technicians and others designed to improve quality control and poultry production and management.

Agrarian conference addresses agricultural mechanisation

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day round-table conference on agrarian reform and rural development organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) resumed meetings in Amman Monday with the delegates discussing several research papers dealing with the subject as presented by different participating countries.

One of the working papers dealt with agricultural mechanisation in the Near East region and its effect on production. The paper dwelt on areas where agricultural engineers and experts can help increase production, control of water resources for farming and marketing issues.

In an address at the opening session Sunday, Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al

Assad said that migration from rural to urban areas leaves a negative impact on agricultural production.

Assad reviewed Jordan's experience in the field of rural development and pointed to infrastructure in socio-economic services and the development of water resources and communications and electricity for rural regions in the Kingdom.

The Amman-based regional Centre for on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development organised the conference in a bid to promote regional cooperation in rural development in the Near East region and to review ways to promote specialised services in agrarian reform and rural development.



Minister Adnan Badran (second from right) Monday at the opening session of the international energy conference at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

International energy conference opens

Badran: Jordan's oil, gas deposits proven

AMMAN (Petra) — A national oil prospecting programme being implemented in the country by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) in cooperation with a group of foreign oil companies has proved the presence of oil and natural gas deposits in the Kingdom, Minister of Agriculture and acting Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Adnan Badran announced Monday.

Jordan continues to import

crude oil for its domestic use but the NRA is striving to find larger quantities of oil to make the Kingdom self-sufficient in this energy source before the end of the century, the minister said at the opening session of a three day international conference on energy systems held at the University of Jordan.

More than 100 specialists and engineers from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries taking part in the conference will review 31 working papers dealing with energy resources, with special focus on the use of solar and wind power as alternative sources of

energy. Badran reviewed the energy situation in Jordan and its links with the employment of technology.

By adopting sound and wise plans in energy fields Jordan has reduced the heavy burden of oil imports and introduced ways for rational employment of different forms of energy, Badran said.

Since the creation of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources four years ago, the Kingdom has reduced the growth in national demand for energy to a mere one per cent annually, compared with high levels in the past year, Badran noted.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Bassam Abu Ghazaleh, University of Jordan's deputy president for scientific faculties and dean of the engineering faculty, who outlined Jordan's programmes in solar and wind power as alternative sources. Later, the minister opened an exhibition displaying energy equipment and methods for rationalising energy consumption. The exhibition was organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) which organised the meeting in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources as well as a number of local companies.

According to the JEA's President Laith Shbeilat the conference aims to focus light on modern research in energy systems with special attention to ways of preserving energy and the use of renewable energy resources as well as exchange of expertise and information among various research centres.

Rawabdeh: Amman grapples with population growth

CAIRO (Petra) — Amman, like many other capitals in the developing world, faces difficulties in developing its local administration to deal with continuous and fast population growth issues; but it is striving with its limited resources and staff to achieve that goal, Greater Municipality of Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said here Monday.

Unlike the capitals of various countries Amman has been facing a population explosion, demanding increased municipal services resulting from continued migration from rural to urban areas and the forced migration of Palestinians who were evicted by the Israeli occupation authorities in Palestine. Rawabdeh said in an address to the opening session of a conference by 19 capitals representing the newly formed World Capitals Organisation (WCO).

The rapid growth in population has not been matched by an equal level in services and administrative organisation to meet the growing and pressing demand on services, Rawabdeh noted.

Amman, he said, is giving

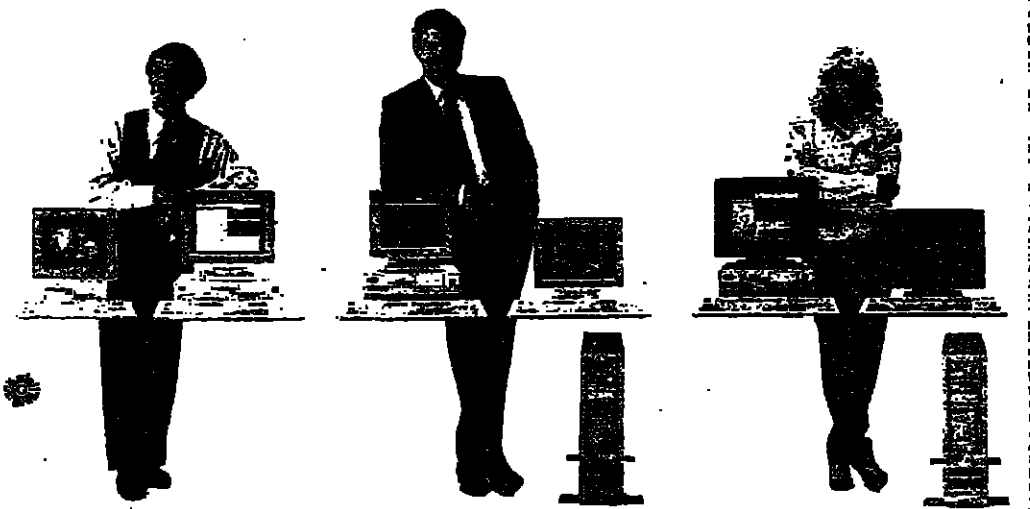
priority to the question of protecting the environment from pollution and is dealing with the problem of disposing of waste.

The organisation, which was established last year, has chosen Amman to represent the capitals of the Western Asia region because Amman was one of the founding capitals of the new organisation. Rawabdeh said that the organisation will address major problems confronting the world's capitals and preparations for next year's conference which will be held in Dakar.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolls and Munira Tawfik at the Housing Gallery.
- ★ The May-art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An exhibition of ceramics and silk flowers entitled "Amman Embedded in the Heart" by Sana' Al Asir at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of children's art at the Scientific Cultural Centre of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Aziz Ammouira at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lweibdeh.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of chemical industries and scientific experiments at Umm 'Amarah Secondary School, Irbid.
- ★ An exhibition of marine life at Mu'ta University.
- ★ A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 aerial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alia Gallery.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by Wissam Boustany, flute, and Nigel Clayton, piano, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A documentary on Massachusetts shown as part of the American Centre's programme "Portrait of America" — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture on "The Preservation of Monuments in the Federal Republic of Germany" by Dr. Werner von Trutzschler at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1973

جورديان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

High time for Egypt's return

THE projected Arab summit at Casablanca on May 23 will not only be extraordinary in form and substance but also remarkable in the sense that Egypt will be formally reinstated in the Arab fold after so many years of absence. Cairo's presence in all future Arab summits would naturally provide such gatherings with the kind of vigour and stamina that could make all the difference as far as the cohesion and strength of the Arab World are concerned. Yet to restore to Egypt its natural and logical role within Arab ranks is only the beginning of a long and tortuous road towards full Arab integration into one coherent policy that could serve all the Arab peoples equally and fairly. With its centrist policies, both political and economic, Egypt could very well act as a central force to pull the rest of the Arab World in the direction of moderation and common sense.

Such sense of centrism would naturally have a bearing on several Arab conflicts and issues such as Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict. To be sure centrism should not be confused with policies and perspectives that betray basic and legitimate Arab aspirations and rights on all fronts. Past Arab summits have cemented such principled positions with resolutions that have been reaffirmed over and over again.

The Casablanca Arab summit may still find it imperative to evolve and develop previous summit decisions with a view to making them more relevant and operational in the present circumstances. The tragedy that has repeatedly hit Arab summits lies in the proposition that many of them remained ink on paper. No true Arab would want to see Arab summit resolutions face the same fate of mass-produced U.N. resolutions. This time around the Arab World would like to see that the Casablanca Arab summit be labelled extraordinary not only in name and form but also because of its extraordinary determination to translate dreams into realities. Let the Arab leaders forget, the Iraq-Iran front is still hot and the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon are even hotter. These conflicts and the many other issues that still confront the Arab Nation are awaiting an overall Arab redress in a tangible and effective manner. This is particularly so in view of the fact that most if not all of these conflicts have reached critical junctures and require deep soul searching on an overall Arab scale. The Casablanca summit could and should be the Arab forum to provide the answers to at least some of these Arab concerns.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Monday commented on the current preparations for the coming summit meeting which will be held in Casablanca. The paper said that as the Arabs are involved in these preparations they ought to remember that an invitation to Egypt to attend is of paramount importance in view of this country's significant role within the Arab World and its importance for the collective Arab action. Egypt's insistence on receiving an invitation to attend the meeting, long before the summit, is quite natural and expected otherwise Cairo would not be able to take part in the joint efforts to solve inter-Arab problems, the paper noted. It said that the countries of the Arab Cooperation Council insist that Egypt should be invited so that they can attend and that they do not want to see the Arab World divided over this issue. Those who are keen on convening the summit later this month should remember that welcoming back Egypt to the Arab fold is a must and that no challenge can be confronted and no problem can be solved without its participation, the paper concluded.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied territories. Shamir's plan is a clearly designed as a tactical ploy and not intended to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East since it does not provide for full recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, the paper said. Shamir has intended the plan as a means of undermining the Arab revolt and create the climate for the Zionists to impose substitutes for the PLO, the paper noted. It was also designed to mislead the world public opinion and to divert the world community's attention away from the ongoing atrocities by Israeli troops against the Palestinians, added the paper. It said that the plan considers the Palestinian people not as legitimate owners of the land of Palestine but merely as a minority living among the Jews and is therefore doomed to failure.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Monday comments on the U.S.-Soviet negotiations which were held in Moscow last week and which resulted in agreement over a number of matters of concern to the world community as a whole. The two superpowers seem to have come to an agreement on means of solving the Middle East issue by making all parties offer some concessions and compromises so that an acceptable formula can be reached, Mahmoud Al Rimawi notes. He says that this means that the PLO as well as Israel will be involved in the coming process and that the United States which used to hold a similar view to that of Israel is no more adhering to its adamant position and hard stand. The consensus reached in Moscow, the writer says, means that the Israeli occupation is no more tolerated and that it has to end to save the region further bloodshed. Therefore, the writer concludes, it is quite possible for the superpowers to come to a consensus soon on a formula for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict specially as the intifada continues to serve as a form of pressure on the Israelis to leave the Arab land.

Israeli peace plan: Insisting on Camp David

TEL AVIV (AP) — Following is the text of peace plan approved by the Israeli cabinet on Sunday. The English version of the plan was provided by the government, which termed it an "informal translation." The Biblical names Judea and Samaria are used to describe the occupied West Bank.

A peace initiative by the government of Israel

General

1. This document presents the principles of a political initiative of the government of Israel which deals with the continuation of the peace process, the termination of the state of war with the Arab states, a solution for the Arabs of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza districts, peace with Jordan and a resolution of the problem of the residents of the refugee camps of the Judea, Samaria and Gaza districts.

2. The document includes:
a. The principles on which the initiative is based.
b. Details of the processes for its implementation.
c. Reference to the subject of the elections under consideration.

Further details relating to the elections as well as other subjects of the initiative will be dealt with separately.

Basic premises

3. The initiative is founded upon the assumption that there is a national consensus for it on the basis of the basic guidelines of the government of Israel, including

the following points:

a. Israel yearns for peace and the continuation of the political process by means of direct negotiations based on the principles of the Camp David Accords.

b. Israel opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state in the Gaza district and the area between Israel and Jordan.

c. Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO.

d. There will be no change in the status of Judea, Samaria and Gaza other than in accordance with the basic guidelines of the government.

Subjects to be dealt with in the peace process

4. a. Israel views as important that the peace between Israel and Egypt based on the Camp David Accords will serve as a cornerstone for enlarging the circle of peace in the region, and calls for a common endeavour for the strengthening of the peace and its extension through continued consultations.

b. Israel calls for the establishment of peace relations between it and those Arab states which still maintain a state of war with it for the purpose of promoting a comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, including recognition, direct negotiations, ending the boycott, diplomatic relations, cessation of hostile activity in international institutions or forums, and regional and bilateral cooperation.

c. Israel calls for an international endeavour to resolve the problem of the residents of the Arab refugee camps in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district in order to improve their living conditions and to rehabilitate them.

Israel is prepared to be a partner in this endeavour.

d. In order to advance the political negotiation process leading to peace, Israel proposes free and democratic elections among the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts in an atmosphere devoid of violence, threats and terror. In these elections, a representation will be chosen to conduct negotiations for a transitional period of self-rule. This period will constitute a test for coexistence and cooperation. At a later stage, negotiations will be conducted for a permanent solution during which all the proposed options for an agreed settlement will be examined and peace between Israel and Jordan will be achieved.

e. All the above mentioned steps should be dealt with simultaneously.

f. The details of what has been mentioned in D above will be given below.

Principles constituting the initiative stages

5. The initiative is based on two stages:

a. Stage A. A transitional period for an interim agreement.

b. Stage B. Permanent solution.

6. The interlock between the stages is a timetable on which the plan is built: The peace process delineated by the initiative is based on (U.N. Security Council) Resolutions 242 and 338 upon which the Camp David Accords are founded.

Timetable

7. The transitional period will continue for five years.

8. As soon as possible, but not later than the third year after the

beginning of the transitional period, negotiations for achieving a permanent solution will begin.

Parties participating in the negotiations in both stages

9. The parties participating in the negotiations for the first stage (the interim agreement) shall include Israel and the elected representation of the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts. Jordan and Egypt will be invited to participate in these negotiations if they so desire.

10. The parties participating in the negotiations for the second stage (permanent solution) shall include Israel and the elected representation of the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts as well as Jordan; furthermore, Egypt may participate in these negotiations. In negotiations between Israel and Jordan in which the elected representation of the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts will participate, the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan will be concluded.

Substance of the transitional period

11. During the transitional period, the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of the Judea, Samaria and Gaza districts will be accorded self-rule by means of which they will, themselves, conduct their affairs of daily life. Israel will continue to be responsible for security, foreign affairs and all matters concerning Israeli citizens in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts. Topics involving the implementation of the plan for self-rule will be considered and decided within the framework of the negotiations for an interim agreement.

Substance of the permanent solution

12. In the negotiations for a permanent solution, every party shall be entitled to present for discussion all the subjects it may wish to raise.

13. The aim of the negotiations should be:

a. The achievement of a permanent solution acceptable to the negotiating parties.

b. The arrangements for peace and borders between Israel and Jordan.

Details of the process for the implementation of the initiative

14. First and foremost dialogue and basic agreement by the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts, as well as Egypt and Jordan if they wish to take part as above mentioned in the negotiation on the principles constituting the initiative.

15. a. Immediately afterwards will follow the stage of preparations and implementation of the election process in which a representation of the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza will be elected. This representation:

I. Shall be a partner to the conduct of negotiations for the transitional period (interim agreement).

II. Shall constitute the self-governing authority in the course of the transitional period.

III. Shall be the central Palestinian component, subject to agreement after three years, in

the negotiations for the permanent solution.

b. In the period of the preparations and implementation, there shall be a calming of the violence in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts.

16. As to the substance of the elections, it is recommended that a proposal of regional elections be adopted, the details of which shall be determined in further discussions.

17. Every Palestinian Arab residing in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza districts who shall be elected by the inhabitants to represent them — after having submitted his candidacy in accordance with the detailed documents which shall determine the subject of the elections — may be a legitimate participant in the conduct of negotiations with Israel.

18. The elections shall be free, democratic and secret.

19. Immediately after the election of the Palestinian representation, negotiations shall be conducted with it on an interim agreement for a transitional period which shall continue for five years as mentioned above. In these negotiations the parties shall determine all the subjects relating to the substance to the self-rule and the arrangements necessary for its implementation.

20. As soon as possible, but not later than the third year after the establishment of the self-rule, negotiations for a permanent solution shall begin. During the whole period of these negotiations until the signing of the agreement for a permanent solution, the self-rule shall continue in effect as determined in the negotiations for an interim agreement.

Environment: More words than deeds

By Mostafa K. Tolba

The writer is undersecretary-general of the United Nations and executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

GENEVA — In less time than it takes to read this article, the world will spend more on armaments than the \$35 million or so it gives each year to the global organisation that it set up nearly 20 years ago to protect the environment.

In Nairobi during the next two weeks (May 15 to 26), the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme will be presented with a radical agenda that responds to the growing demand of the public worldwide for action to address the environmental crisis.

As interest in the environment has grown, however, UNEP's resources have shrunk in real terms.

UNEP has been widely praised as the prime mover behind the recent international agreements to protect the ozone layer and control the movement of hazardous waste. Our new agenda is designed to build on those achievements by concentrating on key issues — including the controlling of greenhouse gases — on which further progress can be made. But unless extra resources are forthcoming from the international community, I may have to end the Nairobi meeting with an announcement of forced cutbacks.

On a world scale, the financial problems of a small U.N. organisation do not amount to much. But our experience may be a microcosm of a much graver problem: the gap between words and deeds. Despite the welcome new attention to the environment on the part of world leaders, signs of readiness to deal with the root causes of environmental destruction are few and far between.

These causes lie in the wasteful and inequitable conduct of the world economy. The impact is greatest in the developing world in the face of economic crisis, debt, falling commodity prices and Northern protectionism, the choices available to governments and peoples in developing countries are limited. In some cases, there is scarcely any choice at all. I was struck recently by a filmed interview of a farmer whose poverty had forced him to take a job felling tropical forest for charcoal. "I am destroying my family's future," he said. "But what can I do? We have to survive."

Hundreds of millions of people like him are being forced to adopt a life-style approaching self-immolation. Unless the international community provides opportunities for the underprivileged to plan for a better future, grand treaties, high-sounding resolutions and international declarations to

safeguard our environment ring hollow.

What is needed is a massive transfer of resources from the industrialised to the poor countries. Throwing money at the problem will not make it go away, but it will help.

Opinion polls testify that the public in the industrialised countries is ready to see extra resources raised through innovative taxation, savings from disarmament, and debt remission directed to better development.

It has to be done on terms acceptable to the South. Already there are rumblings of discontent that environment has become a cover for conditionality in grants and loans, and for unwarranted interference in national development. The charge of "environmental imperialism" must be avoided at all costs.

The first priority must be to direct resources to help developing countries build up their own capacity to cope with environmental problems. I am talking of training, the transfer of knowledge, institution-building and public education.

That assistance has to be committed over 20 to 30 years. Right now, few governments plan on this kind of time scale. Investment in infrastructure-building to manage natural resources brings few immediate benefits. Difficult as it may seem, long-term commitments have to be made.

As the scientific evidence for depletion of the ozone layer hardens, the industrialised countries are coming to realise what UNEP has for so long maintained: that environmental destruction is out of control. Norway recently offered some \$100 million every year, and Finland \$2 million, for a start to an International Climate Fund to assist the developing countries, through the United Nations, to acquire CFC substitutes and alternative technologies to limit ozone depletion. This is very encouraging. Other countries should follow suit quickly.

A similar approach is needed for other problems — safe disposal of hazardous waste, soil and water conservation, protection of seas and tropical forests, combating desertification. These problems are global in scope, but their resolution ultimately relies on strong and coordinated national action.

The world desperately needs convincing evidence that progress is being made, in order to stiffen its resolve to tackle the hidden causes of the crisis: debt, overconsumption and unfair terms of trade.

In Nairobi in the next two weeks, we will have a barometer to test whether governments are prepared to provide such evidence by supporting the institution they set up to help protect the human environment.

Venezuelan leader backs austerity despite unrest

By David Brough

Reuter

CARACAS — President Carlos Andres Perez is determined to push through an austerity programme despite labour unrest and the bloody riots in Venezuela's democratic history which marked his first 100 days in office.

Perez, an energetic Social Democrat who took office on Feb. 2, said within days of the riots in late February that he would not turn back from his economic austerity programme, designed to win international Monetary Fund (IMF) credits.

"There's no question of changing tack. I will continue the path we have started on," he said in a television interview in early March.

Official estimates say 297 people were killed and 1,800 injured from Feb. 27 to March 1 in the worst disturbances since the military government of Marcos Perez Jimenez fell in 1958.

Perez, who was Venezuela's elected president from 1974 to 1979, when he nationalised the oil industry, denied rumours of a military coup after the riots.

"The president enjoys good health and as far as the Venezuelan armed forces (are concerned), one can no longer talk here about a military coup," Perez said in April.

The riots were to protest against the austerity package on Feb. 16 that sharply raised petrol and electricity prices when price controls were lifted to liberalise the heavily centralised economy. Despite the riots and the pros-

pect of a general strike called for May 18 by the main trade union group, the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV), Perez is sticking firmly to his austerity programme.

"The president has been very clear that we are going to make strong adjustments," chief government spokesman Pastor Heydra told Reuters.

Perez has said the austerity policies are necessary to ensure new credits to invest in economic development and rebuild foreign exchange reserves depleted by falling oil revenues and heavy spending on imports and debt payments.

The leader of the Christian Democrat opposition, Eduardo Fernandez, has rejected the government's austerity policies, saying people could not afford them and they could lead to the collapse of the economy.

"We are living in the most delicate moment of the last 30 years," he said in a recent speech, referring to the period of democracy in Venezuela.

"Neither the president nor the government seems to understand the magnitude of the problem before us. We have to save our democracy. We are living through the collapse of an economic model."

The general strike this month, the first since 1958, was expected to be a test of the strength of opposition to Perez's austerity policies, diplomats and analysts said.

"There could be violence but nothing on the scale of the riots in

February," a Western diplomat said.

Rafael Sureda, an international politics professor at Caracas state-run Central University, told Reuters: "Violence on May 18 is not the interests of the left and the CTV because they know the people would blame them."

The ruling Democratic Action Party has said workers have the right to stage the general strike but warned it would do considerable damage to the economy.

Heydra said he believed Venezuelans accepted that the government had to take austerity measures but added that it was still painful.

"You are hurt (by the measures) but you understand," he said.

Diplomats said that discontent was growing among the people, who have seen their purchasing power plunge since the measures took effect, pushing the country deeper into recession.

They estimated that up to half of the working population may be living on less than the minimum wage of 4,000 bolivars (\$110) per month; many of them working in swollen black economy.

Venezuelans experienced an explosion of price speculation by businessmen after price controls were lifted in February, economists and government sources said.

But eggs and fish prices had started falling and neighbourhood associations, which have proliferated under Perez's government, were appealing to consumers to boycott shops that were overcharging, they said.

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Oil — the bridge to development

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times
Interdependence on the Oil Bridge: Risks and Opportunities, Ali Ahmed Attiga, 1988. Petroleum Information Committee of the Arab Gulf States Bookcraft Ltd., Bath, Avon

THE FUTURE of the Middle East will continue to depend on oil and the development of the region's states will hinge on their respective abilities to efficiently use the resource to attain a level of industrialisation because the "black gold" of the earth is not an abundant, limitless resource.

With accusations of oil over-production flying about and lack of a definite market strategy and stability in Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price levels, the scarcity of a once-believed abundant resource is even more evident than in 1986 when the rug was almost pulled from under the feet of the oil producers and the price of oil tumbled tremendously.

Despite the slight rebound since mid-1988, oil prices remain lower than their actual market value; the long-term impact of low prices is a new crisis facing the oil-exporting countries.

This crisis could be preempted and the wheels could be set on the right track for stable development in the fields of energy and economy through cooperation between oil-exporting and oil-importing states on the one hand and among oil exporters in the developing world on the other. This is the message conveyed by Dr. Ali Ahmed Attiga in his book, "Interdependence on the Oil Bridge: Risks and Opportunities."

The book, published in 1988, covers developments in the fields of oil production and pricing, the evolution of events that adversely affected the relatively strong

position of the oil-exporting developing countries at the turn of the decade and their economic growth and quest for consumer and industrial self-sufficiency, could easily be described as highly-informative and thought-provoking; though, by design or coincidence, the author has sidestepped in-depth analysis of some key issues such as the bickering among oil producers and the vast geographical, demographic, political and social differences which make it almost impossible to apply the same parameters to development in various oil-producing under-developed countries.

Attiga, former secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), stresses that oil resources are, in the long run, scarce and depletable assets and that this basic fact should not be obscured by the recent fall in oil prices resulting from "temporary excess production" combined with an urgent need for hard currency by some OPEC member states which face foreign debts accumulated as a result of anticipated exports at prices that prevailed in the early 1980s.

At the same time, developed countries, represented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), have followed a policy of confrontation with OPEC states, particularly after the 1973 oil embargo, in a bid to keep a tight rein on oil prices.

Systematic pressure

According to Attiga, the most important and concrete action was taken at the infamous Washington energy conference of 1974 which established the International Energy Agency (IEA) in order to lower oil prices by breaking up OPEC and pushing mem-

ber countries to vie individually for shares in the oil market.

Simultaneous with the IEA drive, which fell short of its secondary aim of sowing discord between oil-producing developing states and oil-importers, OECD countries also sought, though with limited success, to develop alternatives to oil at steep research costs by utilising energy derived through solar rays, wind, coal and nuclear fusion.

At one point, energy and oil conservation, as well as developing alternative sources of energy, became the concern of both oil-exporting and oil-importing countries. Although this convergence of interests was short-lived, it would have served both interests if this coordinated policy was followed since oil is the fastest depleting energy source, according to Attiga.

Unfortunately, present policy is not based on cooperation but confrontation and this policy, coupled with falling demand, has relegated OPEC oil to a second choice in the oil market, forcing down the cartel's output to around 20 million barrels per day (bpd) — around one third of world production. The market has been transformed to one controlled by major buyers as a consequence of the systematic, organised and coordinated policies adopted by the developed world — a far cry from the situation in the 1970s.

This powerful position maintained by oil importers "against the weak and difficult" position of oil exporters — both in and outside OPEC — led to the dramatic price collapse in 1986 when the price of oil per barrel tumbled from \$31 to almost \$11.

Culprit or victim?

Was oil the culprit or the victim

of the global energy transition? If indeed it was the culprit, then whose policies were responsible for making it play this villainous role?

According to Attiga, "the real culprits in this case would be those who allowed short-term national interest and sheer business profits to govern their decisions on energy resources allocations." He argues that the notion that oil resource are virtually unlimited and that the prices of alternative sources of energy would make oil uncompetitive in the market even at its 1980 prices was widely propagated by the international oil companies. He recalls that oil-exporting developing states which are now members of OPEC had no means to make their own assessment and probe the validity of this notion and thus were subject to manipulations by the international conglomerates which continuously sought to keep down the prices.

However, the establishment of OPEC in September 1960, prompted by pressure on prices and a sense of collective resistance by producers, prevented further formal price decreases by the oil companies, but real prices continued to decrease sharply throughout the 1960s under the pressure of inflation and balances of trade which were always in favour of developed countries.

Despite the heavy dependence of developing countries as a group on oil resources, whether for domestic consumption or export, the energy planners of the world, particularly in the industrially advanced countries, are predicting the exhaustion of oil resources before that of all other sources of depletable energy reserves. This was one of the main conclusions of the twelfth congress of the world energy conference held in New Delhi in

September 1974. It also asserted that oil was the "real culprit in the recent upset because its availability is still suspect."

Following the 1973 embargo against the U.S. due to its support for Israel, thousands of seminars and research papers blamed the rise in the price of oil for the "energy crisis." The mass media in the West also propagated the idea that oil price hikes were responsible for the economic recession Western countries were facing, the press also concluded that OPEC members, mostly the Arabs, were responsible for the "old and new" ills of the oil-importing countries, and thus the oil producers were the target of two-fold pressure; one stemming from the OECD state's drive to push down prices and the other from the West's dedicated politically-motivated campaign to avert being caught in a repeated experience of the 1973 embargo.

Turning to the central theme of economic and industrial development in Arab oil producing states, Attiga asserts that "at best, in the long run, oil can only serve as a bridge to alternative sources of energy. At the same time it should serve as another bridge — one to alternative sources of income through economic development and viable investments." Basic consumer industries, petrochemicals, agriculture, foreign portfolios etc. are viable avenues towards such a goal.

Strength and length

In this sense, the strength and the length of the oil bridge will be determined by at least three factors: (a) the level of the oil price; (b) the rate of oil depletion; and (c) the efficiency with which oil revenues are used in the oil-exporting countries.

"If these three factors are man-

aged in a way as to maintain a reasonably high and stable price with a moderate rate of depletion and with relatively productive investments in the oil exporting countries, then the oil bridge will permit a smooth transition in energy and development as these countries approach the post-oil era," Attiga says.

Otherwise, he warns, "the bridge may collapse under the weight of waste, inefficiency and mismanagement in both the oil-exporting and oil-importing countries." The emerging scene indicates that the 21st century will probably witness the worst oil and energy crisis history has ever seen, and in such a dismal situation, "the oil-exporting countries would be the greatest losers of all."

"Under the worst-case scenario of low oil prices and high depletion rates, they could find themselves without oil and without financial reserves at the time. Moreover, their national economies would have been unable to develop alternative sources of income because of excessive fragmentation and heavy dependence on the export of cheap oil," Attiga asserts and outlines what can be done to avert such a bleak future.

Advocating the concept of collective action among the Arab countries as an inevitable element in order to preempt the gloomy scenario, Attiga points out that inter-Arab trade and investments are far below desired levels. "A collective development policy should give top priority to these two vital and strategic aspects of regional cooperation," he says and details the fundamentals that should govern the policy. Development of human resources is another priority area as is development of research and applied technology.

INTERDEPENDENCE on the OIL BRIDGE Risks and Opportunities

Ali Ahmed Attiga



Mix and mismatch

By A. Jawad Sheikh

TELEVISION'S latest attempt to tackle the personal implications rather than the politics of race, Shalom Salsam, (BBC-2) may have failed to please the critics but it is surely a welcome stimulus to thought. For, increasingly, the evidence is that mixed-race marriages are more vulnerable and that those involved in them are in greater danger of psychological breakdown.

I came to the United Kingdom in 1981 for further training and experience in psychiatry. In my first job as a senior house officer in a hospital in Essex, I met my wife who is white and British. We have been married for four years and are happily settled with two children.

Our relationship, however, sparked off a chain of events which were painful and stressful to say the least. We continue to deal with the complexities of the relationship, which not only include the family and society but, most important, our personal understanding and willingness to adapt.

My experience and that of the adults and children who came to my psychiatric clinics prompted me to explore the apparently increased vulnerability of those involved in a mixed marriage. Problems ranged from individual dissatisfaction, disappointments, marital conflicts and divorce, depression and anxiety. I saw the children in a state of intense confusion and distress about their identity and sense of belonging. The issue affects not only the individuals or the children; it affects society and its political and cultural conflicts.

We can define race as a group of people of common ancestry, distinguished from others by physical characteristics — some striking, some subtle. Races also differ in their cultural background, traditions, language, belief systems and temperament. We are only too aware throughout our lives that ethnicity — our "roots" — is a powerful influence in determining our identity and recognition in society. By providing a sense of belonging and of historical continuity, it meets a basic psychological need.

An ethnic group has been defined as "those who conceive of

themselves as alike by virtue of their common ancestry, real or fictitious, and who are also regarded thus by others." Ethnicity is more than race, religion or national and geographic origin. It patterns our thinking, feeling and behaviour in both obvious and subtle ways. It plays a major role in determining our lives.

Britain is a cosmopolitan society. There are today more than two million immigrants from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan. One of the outcomes of such a mixed race society is mixed marriage. According to national and housing surveys the proportion of New Commonwealth and Pakistani to white marriages is one in 330 and according to Labour Force Survey the proportion is one in 240.

These inter-ethnic marriages should represent about one quarter of all marriages in which one or both partners are from a non-white ethnic group. The Labour Force Survey also shows that both partners are white in 96 per cent of mixed marriages; in 2 per cent of marriages both partners come from the same non-white ethnic group and just under 1 per cent of coloured marriages are between partners, one of whom is white and the other from an ethnic minority group.

Views about inter-marriage are paradoxical. On one hand it disrupts family patterns and connections, but on the other hand it opens systems to new patterns, connections and the possibility of creative transformations in life. Becoming familiar with a different culture may be an enriching experience that provides new flexibility to a system. Complementary ethnic values, patterns and attitudes may enhance the potential of the marriage.

Creative children

Some authors suggest that inter-marriages are more likely to produce creative children — as well as children who cannot reconcile the diversity. Recent literature confirms that ethnically mixed couples are more likely to get divorced, a further trauma for their children.

There are six major factors which influence the degree of adjustment required in a mixed-

race marriage. The first is the extent of the difference in values between the cultural groups. For example, an Irish/English couple who share the same religion and language will experience less stress and disparity than an English/Asian couple who are diverse, not only in religion and language, but also in race and colour.

Secondly, the difference in the degree of acculturation of each spouse: a couple is likely to have more difficulty if one spouse is an immigrant and the other a later generation Briton. Thirdly, religious differences add extra stress; it would be easier for an Asian and British couple who share the same religion than who do not.

The fourth factor is the extent of racial prejudice between the two groups. Where this is strong, the inter-racial couple may be alienated from both families and racial groups and may thus be forced into couple isolation. In addition, their children often experience great difficulty in establishing a clear identity and may suffer discrimination from both groups.

Then there are socio-economic differences. Partners who come from very different backgrounds may find their cultures place different values on financial status or "class".

The last factor is familiarity with each other's culture before marriage: it will be easier for both families to accept a new spouse if they already know people from that cultural group. Families living in a heterogeneous neighbourhood are probably more prepared for their children to inter-marry than those living in a homogeneous one.

Couples typically anticipate at the beginning of their relationship that they can overcome all odds. If their relationship is formed in reaction to family injunctions or in rebellion against family values, they may handle conflicts about the inter-marriage by distancing from both extended families. Or one spouse may fuse into the other's family by religious conversion or by adopting the basics of the other culture.

Another important aspect of inter-marriage is male and female roles. Historically most cultural groups have ascribed separate and defined roles for male and



Toby Rolt as Adam and Mamta Kaash as Mumtaz in Shalom Salsam

female. The most common division of roles have been for men to provide and for women to nurture. Asian women, for example, often become powerful in later life, after the death of their husbands. Because of the great emotional attachment the older son feels towards his devoted mother, the wishes of the mother are frequently respectfully attended to by the son. Thus, although the older son is the ruler of the family, it is frequently the mother who rules the son, and therefore the rest of the family. Irish women, on the other hand have tended to be openly dominant in family life and to be considered morally superior to men. The expected roles of husband and wife differ greatly from one culture to another. Couples may find themselves at best mystified, at worst in serious conflict when their cultural background provides a misfit of expectations.

Differences in style of communication, handling of conflict, attitude towards intimacy and dependence, and attitude towards grief and sadness are all potential

areas of misunderstanding and conflict. Different values and attitudes about raising children can aggravate the conflicts of mixed race couples. Although loving their children with equal intensity, they may express it very differently.

A partner who marries out reactively and raises children without teaching them his or her native language or cultural tradition, may later regret that decision as the children grow up with little sense of ethnic identity. A partner who leaves his or her country of origin may later experience painful longings for homeland and roots. The implications of the decision to marry out may only be appreciated many years later, as the need for a supportive and familiar context intensifies. The impact of a decision to inter-marry may thus not be appreciated until complex new family structures are in place and a loyalty conflict cannot be resolved.

Obviously, I personally support and encourage inter-racial marriage; such relationships take

courage and a broader outlook to break the artificial boundaries of race, culture and conservative views, and the ultimate winners are two individuals and their love for each other and commitment to live together. At the same time, we should not forget the increased divorce rate in inter-marriage and the real problems associated with such a union.

• Dr. Sheikh is Senior Registrar in Psychiatry at the Midland Nerve Hospital, Birmingham. He is conducting a survey and invites mixed-race couples to write to him at Midland Nerve Hospital, Elvetham Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2NJ. All information will be strictly confidential. The survey entails both wife and husband filling in three questionnaires on their personal data, their general health and their marriage.

The survey's object is to evaluate stress and vulnerability to psychological breakdown and to assess the case for counselling and support especially designed for the mixed-race family.

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Bahrain to promote Gulf investment, industry with Egypt

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is taking steps to promote industry and investment projects between oil-rich Gulf states and Egypt, the Arab World's most populous but debt-burdened nation, officials said Monday.

They said a visit to Cairo Tuesday by Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the island's emir and current chairman of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), would underscore the growing importance of Egypt's role within the region.

"We see many opportunities for industrial cooperation between Bahrain and Egypt in particular and the GCC and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in general," Ahmad Qasim Fakhr, president of Bahrain's chamber of commerce, told Reuters.

The GCC states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have backed Egypt's participation in an Arab summit due to begin in Casablanca May 23.

Egypt — which with Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen is a member of the newly-formed ACC — was suspended by the league for signing a peace pact with Israel in 1979.

Fakhr, who is also chairman of the Cairo-based Gulf Arab Investment Co., said Egyptian firms would hold an industrial exhibition in Bahrain in the first

quarter of 1990.

At the same time, Bahrain would host a seminar on investment opportunities in Egypt aimed at encouraging Gulf businessmen to take part in joint ventures with the state, he said.

Officials say current investment in Egypt — mainly from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — is around \$1.5 billion.

Egypt, with 54 million people, is burdened with foreign debt of \$43 billion and imports more than half its food.

Sheikh Isa is due to arrive in Cairo on a three-day visit following an official trip to Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khalifa bin Zaid Al Nahayan have also visited Cairo as part of a GCC drive to promote relations. Oman's Sultan Qaboos is scheduled to visit next week.

Abdul Monem Shirawi, general manager of Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Co. (Balexco), told Reuters the firm would sign a deal Thursday with the Cairo-based Arab Aluminium Co.

Balexco makes doors and window frames from aluminium ingots produced in Bahrain.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

BBC unions plan more strikes

LONDON (R) — Staff unions at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) have said they planned further disruption to services through lightning 24-hour strikes in support of a pay claim. BBC journalists and technicians staged a 48-hour pay strike last week, severely disrupting radio and television programmes. Most live broadcasts were cancelled. A spokesman for the unions said members would be asked to impose a work-to-rule and overtime ban and to withdraw goodwill from management to press their claim for a 16 per cent pay rise. Strikes would be called at short notice and target key events in order to make the stoppages more effective. The BBC has been hit by two strikes since last month after management refused to increase an offer of seven per cent although inflation has reached 7.9 per cent and is expected to rise further. BBC staff complain they earn considerably less than commercial television employees doing comparable jobs.

Pakistan to buy cheap Iranian oil

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan will buy 20,000 barrels of oil daily at concessional rates for one year from Iran, Pakistan's Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Jahangir Badar has said. The official APP news agency quoted him as saying Iran would supply oil at special rates under a barter trade agreement but did not elaborate. APP did not say when the purchases would start. Pakistan produces about 50,000 barrels of oil a day, only one-third of its requirement. It imports oil mainly from Saudi Arabia.

Turks reverse debit/credit accounts

ISTANBUL (R) — In a reversal of roles, Turkish banks have started lending money to Europe in a first major buying sortie into the London bond market. Senior Istanbul bankers said three Turkish banks had brought \$27 million of a \$50 million, one-year Council of Europe bond issue. "It's natural to look for other investments. We have surplus liquidity due to lower imports and the current account surplus," said Tayfun Beyazit of Yapi Kredi Bank. Turkish banks have almost always been borrowers in the past but the situation changed with Turkey's unprecedented current account surplus of \$1.5 billion in 1988. Due to the surplus and low domestic demand for loans, Turkey has also started arranging \$500 million of trade and project credit for the Soviet Union. "As long as the surplus lasts, it's very likely we'll be major players," Beyazit said.

Reminding of financial commitments

CAEU stresses Arab Common Market

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day meeting by the deputy representatives of Arab countries in the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) ended here Monday with a strong recommendation to Arab states to promote the Arab Common Market.

A final statement issued here at the Amman-based CAEU

headquarters, said that the meeting urged Arab states to honour their financial commitment to the council so as to enable its operations to continue.

CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim had called on Arab states to pay their contributions to the council which is finding it difficult to carry on with its

activities due to a shortage of funds.

The meeting endorsed an agenda for the council's 51st meeting to open in Amman June 7 at the ministerial level and prepared a set of recommendations for the ministers' meeting.

Meanwhile, preparations have

been made for Tuesday's meetings at the CAEU's headquarters of Arab experts who will discuss the application of a programme designed to promote trade between Arab states.

The programme was endorsed by the Arab member states to help develop trade among Arab countries.

'Big hands' jack up bourse in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's shadow stock manipulators have thwarted government efforts to tax them out of Asia's second biggest share market and they are back, helping to push the booming bourse to new highs.

Share analysts said the "big hands" — a group of wealthy individuals and underground investment companies — are again at the forefront of trading, playing a game that last year gave investors here a roller coaster ride.

The manipulators' reappearance surprised many analysts, who predicted that a tax on share profits introduced Jan. 1 would drive them out of business.

"They have been acting very bluntly," said Daniel Chiang, vice-president of International

Investment Trust.

Analysts said the market's resurgence is due mostly to new efforts by big players to jack prices higher.

Fooing small players

"As the market heats up the big guys are interested in keeping it going so the small players will jump in. Then, later, they can unload on them," said one foreign analyst.

The government introduced the tax on profits on annual stock sales exceeding 10 million Taiwan dollars (\$389,000) to halt the waves of buying and selling inspired by manipulators.

"The tax doesn't seem to have had that effect on them at all," said Dickson Ho, senior analyst

at W.I. Carr (Taiwan).

Instead, manipulators are finding new ways to run the market, sending both the index and daily turnover sky-rocketing.

Dummy accounts

To avoid the new tax levied on each individual account, big players use dummy accounts under other people's names to spread their trade around, share analysts said.

There are now more than two million registered accounts at Taiwan brokerage houses, almost double that of last September.

"In the past you could trade huge amounts through a single

nominee, but now you need hundreds or even thousands," said Taiwan International Investment Co. Vice-President Philip Fang. Fearful the tax would wipe out profits, the big hands pulled out of the market late last year, sending the index tumbling 35 per cent. It remained quiet, starting 1989 at 4,998.18.

During first-quarter 1989 Taiwan share prices rose by 121.8 per cent, the biggest gain in the world, official data shows.

The manipulators lure small investors into joining them by setting up underground stock investment clubs, giving them the liquidity they need to affect a wide range of stock prices.

In an effort to curb soaring daily turnover, the securities and Exchange Commission announced it would begin spot checks on brokerage houses to try to reduce the amount of illegal "wash" trading — buying and selling the same stock in one day.

Government anti-inflation measures have caused local banks to raise their interest rates, which economists hope might drain some money out of the stock market.

Share analysts predict the action will have little effect, noting Taiwan's underdeveloped bond and money markets make the bourse the only choice for investors seeking capital gains.

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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company lists 1988 achievements, '89 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) last year produced 2,317,712 tonnes of various oil products against 2,404,523 tonnes in 1987, according to the company's annual report.

The report said that the company's sales amounted to 2,875,435 tonnes of which 111,265 tonnes were liquefied gas, 341,119 tonnes gasoline, 158,685 tonnes kerosene, 805,464 tonnes diesel oil, 1,132,877 fuel oil, and 135,079 tonnes asphalt.

The report added that the gas cylinder factory last year produced 82,005 gas cylinders, each of a capacity of 12.5 kilogram-

mes, while the number of cylinders sold during last year was 79,258.

The factory has also maintained 42,735 cylinders and put them into use again, thus bringing the total number of cylinders in use throughout the Kingdom to 1,243,108 cylinders of a capacity of 12.5 kilogrammes and 9,054 cylinders of 50 kilogrammes capacity, as at the end of 1988.

The report pointed out that the company has set up crude oil reservoirs with a total capacity of 247,000 cubic metres, at a cost of JD 3,778,000.

The report also said that the company has prepared the basic

documents for three energy-saving projects at a cost of JD 18,000 and another basic document for a sulphur extracting unit at a cost of JD 38,000. Other projects included the setting up of a new service building at Queen Alia International Airport at a cost of JD 44,500 and other miscellaneous construction at a cost of JD 49,500.

The company also spent JD 60,000 for upgrading the protection system at the refinery and the dual crude oil lines.

JPRC's 1988 refurbishments also involved purchasing computer units for use at the refinery site in Zarqa and at the com-

pany's headquarter in Amman. The company has paid JD 125,000, or 90 per cent, of the computers value during the year.

The report revealed that JPRC has completed 75 per cent of the work on the construction of two liquefied gas filling stations in Amman and Irbid at a cost of JD 5,229,000 and that it intends to install a round gas reservoir in Amman at a cost of JD 271,000. However, the project will be completed in 1989, according to the report.

The company will also complete the third housing estate project this year for the company staff at a cost of JD 1,062,000.

Free Zone Corporation reveals operation figures

AMMAN (J.T.) — Goods coming into the Aqaba free zone during last year dropped by 11,000 tonnes over the quantities arriving there in 1987, according to Free Zone Corporation Director Yassin Al Kayed.

Kayed was quoted by Sawt Al Shaab daily Monday as saying that a total of 80,000 were reexported to Arab countries, against 91,000 tonnes in the previous year of which 42,000 tonnes were reexported.

Referring to the free zone area

in Zarqa, Kayed noted that it received 77,000 tonnes in the past year of which 35,000 were reexported against 56,000 tonnes received in 1987 of which 26,000 tonnes were reexported.

Commenting on the future of inter-Arab cooperation and benefits from the free zones, Kayed said that it is unfortunate that inter-Arab agreements will not improve matters and can by no means help boost industries that exist inside the free zone areas in the Kingdom.

He said this is due to the fact that the Council of Arab Economic Unity's 1966 regulations do not provide for goods in the free zone to enjoy exemptions from customs duty when entering another council member country or those of the Arab Common Market.

The operation of free zones, he added, is also hampered due to the existence of inter-Arab trade and economic agreements which provide for lists of specific goods which can be traded or those which can be exempted from duty.

Jordan, Syria review joint free zones schemes

DERAA (Petra) — The general assembly of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Free Zones Company discussed a working plan for 1989 which entails steps designed to encourage investments in the free zone area near the common Jordanian-Syrian border.

The meeting, which was co-chaired by Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab and Syrian Economy and Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi also endorsed the company's 1989 fiscal budget.

Both ministers, in speeches at

the meeting, underlined the importance of providing facilities for the company to help it carry out its operations and attract industries that benefit both countries.

They also called for increased cooperation between the two sides in economic and trade fields.

The general assembly meeting reviewed the company's activities, and plans for expansion and for attracting investments in industrial and agricultural areas.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, May 15, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
			Swiss franc	309.0	314.4
			French franc	82.1	83.0
			Japanese yen (for 100)	392.1	396.6
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	245.8	249.0
Pound Sterling	883.1	895.9	Swedish crown	82.4	83.1
Deutschemark	277.8	281.3	Italian lira (for 100)	38.1	38.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	132.4	134.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.6385/95	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1930/40	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.9450/60	Deutschemarks
	2.1900/10	Dutch guilders
	1.7435/45	Swiss francs
	40.70/75	Belgian francs
	6.5600/50	French francs
	1415/1416	Italian lire
	137.37/47	Japanese yen
	6.5525/75	Swedish crowns
	7.0100/0200	Norwegian crowns
	7.5525/5625	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	373.60/374.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Shares made their biggest one-day gain in more than a year. The All Ordinaries index ended floor trading 28.8 points higher at 1,565.8 despite late profit-taking.

TOKYO — Share prices closed lower in the slowest trading this year, with investors reluctant to buy with the dollar above 136 yen. The Nikkei index lost 150.04 points to 33,716.29.

HONG KONG — Concern about continuing student unrest in China stopped local securities holding on to morning gains. But blue chips still ended the day at another post-crash closing high. The Hang Seng index rose 31.21 to 3,309.64.

SINGAPORE — Friday's strong rally on Wall Street helped boost the Strait Times industrial index 10.33 points to close at 1,295.40, a post-crash record.

BOMBAY — Prices ended firm in low-volume turnover. Brokers said Calcutta and Delhi marketmen were the chief buyers while local investors preferred to stay on the sidelines.

FRANKFURT, ZURICH AND PARIS — Markets closed for holiday.

LONDON — Afternoon share prices were firm, though below the highs of Monday's new post-crash peak, with Wall Street trading higher in early business. At 1435 GMT the FTSE index was up 12.9 at 2,448.5.

NEW YORK — Buying based on Friday's rally overcame profit-taking and pushed stocks higher in morning business. April data on U.S. industrial production and capacity use suggested little threat of a buildup in manufacturing price pressures. The Dow was up eight at 2,447.



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The singers will be performing at the Amman Marriott Hotel on May 16th at 7.30 p.m. in Al Waha Ballroom. Tickets are available in the hotel. Cost JD 3,000 for adults and JD 2,000 for children.

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